

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A fan ~~blade~~ comprising:

**a fan blade including**

at least two longitudinal slats positioned side by side;

at least one hole constructed through an interior of said at least two longitudinal slats; and

a dowel placed through said hole to secure said at least two longitudinal slats firmly together.

2. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 wherein said dowel further comprises a wooden rod dimensioned to fit in at least one said hole

3. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod is secured in said at least one hole with wood glue.

4. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod further comprises splines or grooves.

5. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 further comprising a threaded portion on one end of said dowel for receiving a cap that secures said dowel in said hole.

6. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 5 wherein said dowel further comprises a fixed cap rigidly secured to one end of said dowel.

7. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 6 wherein said screw on cap is designed to retract said screw on cap and said fixed cap into said slats when screwed on to said threaded portion.

8. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 further comprising end caps for securing said dowel in said hole.

9. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 wherein said slats are constructed from a soft wood.

10. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 wherein both ends of said dowel are threaded to receive threaded end caps.

11. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 10 wherein said threaded caps are designed to receive a tool for securing said threaded end caps to said threaded ends of said dowel.

12. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 1 wherein a material is placed over exposed ends of said dowel such that said dowel is enclosed within said slats.

13. (currently amended) A fan ~~blade~~, said blade comprising:  
**a fan blade including**  
a series of parallel slats;  
a hole running approximately perpendicular to said series of slats through an interior portion of said slats;  
a wooden dowel configured to be received in said hole such that said series of slats are secured together.

14. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 13 further comprising an adhesive for securing said wooded dowel in said hole.

15. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 13 wherein said wooden dowel further comprises grooves.

16. (currently amended) The fan ~~blade~~ of claim 13 wherein said slats are wooden.

17. (currently amended) A ~~blade for use in a fan~~ comprising:

**a fan blade including**

at least two longitudinal wooden slats;

at least one hole constructed through an interior region of said  
at least two longitudinal wooden slats; and

a metal dowel configured to be received in said at least one hole  
such that said at least two longitudinal slats are held firmly together.

18. (currently amended) The ~~blade~~ fan of claim 17 wherein said metal dowel further comprises expanded end portion.

19. (currently amended) The ~~blade~~ fan of claim 18 wherein said expanded end portion is received by a threaded end on said metal dowel.

20. (currently amended) The ~~blade~~ fan of claim 17 further comprising end caps for securing said metal dowel in said at least one hole.